

# Charles Street Parking Study:

## Summary of Key Findings

### Inventory

- Parking on the east side of Charles Street consists mainly of 2-hour meters from 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM, followed by commercial vehicle/meter and valet/meter. On side streets to the east of Charles Street, the majority of spaces are resident permit and the remaining are visitor 8AM - 6PM, 2 hour limit (see regulation table, pg. 5, and inventory map, pg. 14 in the Charles Street Parking Study Report<sup>1</sup>).
  - On the east side of Charles Street, 78% of spaces are meter, 8% are commercial vehicle/meter, 5% are valet/meter, 3% are valet/commercial vehicle, 3% are other, and 3% are tow zone/meter and taxi.
  - On side streets to the east of Charles Street, 81% are resident permit and 19% of spaces are visitor (see inventory map, pg. 14).
- Parking on the west side of Charles Street consists mainly of 2-hour meters from 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM, with a few spaces for city licensed sightseeing buses and valet parking. On side streets to the west of Charles Street, the majority of spaces are resident permit and the remaining are visitor (see regulation table, pg. 5, and inventory map, pg. 14).
  - On the west side of Charles Street, 91% of spaces are meter, 5% are tow zone/meter, 3% are valet, and 1.5% (one space) are commercial vehicle/meter.
  - On side streets to the west of Charles Street, 89% are resident permit and 11% of spaces are 2-hour visitor from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (see inventory map, pg. 14).

### Utilization

- Parking is generally well used throughout the day on Charles Street, meaning there is never a time when the majority of spaces are available.
- The most utilized time periods are weekends at 11:30 AM and weekdays at 7:00 PM.
  - At these times, over 94% of the available parking supply on the east side of Charles Street is occupied (see utilization charts, pg. 6 and 7).
  - At these times, over 90% of the available parking supply on the west side of Charles Street is occupied (see utilization charts, pg. 6 and 7).

---

<sup>1</sup> All page numbers in this document refer to the [Charles Street Parking Study Report](#).

- During peak demand,<sup>2</sup> 97% of spaces on the east side of Charles Street are occupied and 93% of spaces on side streets to the east are occupied.
  - During peak demand on the east side of Charles Street, 61 out of 63 total parking spaces were recorded as occupied, and 25 out of 27 total parking spaces were recorded as occupied on side streets.
  - On the east side of Charles Street, a total of five spaces reserved for commercial vehicles only Monday to Saturday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM would need to be accommodated elsewhere. Three of the spaces are located outside of Beacon Hill Pub, King & I Restaurant, and the UPS Store, and two spaces are located outside of Beacon Hill Hotel & Bistro.
- During peak demand, 99% of spaces on the west side of Charles Street are occupied and 100% of spaces on side streets to the west are occupied.
  - During peak demand on the west side of Charles Street, 65 out of 66 total parking spaces were recorded as occupied, and 18 out of 18 total spaces were recorded as occupied on side streets.
  - On the west side of Charles Street, one space reserved for commercial vehicles only Monday to Saturday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the corner of Charles Street and Revere Street near the United States Postal Office would need to be accommodated elsewhere.

### **Commercial Vehicle Parking**

- On the east side of Charles Street, there are a total of five spaces reserved for commercial vehicles only Monday to Saturday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Three of the spaces are located outside of Beacon Hill Pub, King & I Restaurant, and the UPS Store, and two spaces are located outside of Beacon Hill Hotel & Bistro.
- On the west side of Charles Street, there is one space reserved for commercial vehicles only Monday to Saturday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This space is located at the corner of Charles Street and Revere Street, close to the United States Postal Office.

### **Resident Parking**

- Resident parking permit information was not collected as part of this study, so it is not possible to determine the percentage of meter parking used by residents after the meter regulations end at 8:00 PM. However, utilization data shows that meter parking is highly utilized on weekdays at 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM (89% and 93% respectively), illustrating that there is reason to believe it may be utilized overnight

---

<sup>2</sup> The following findings referring to “peak demand” are based on parking utilization recorded during the weekday peak at 7:00 PM, as this is when demand is highest overall.

by residents. This is also supported by data showing that meter parking is less used late night on Saturday, as this is when meter parking would more likely be used by visitors, opposed to residents.